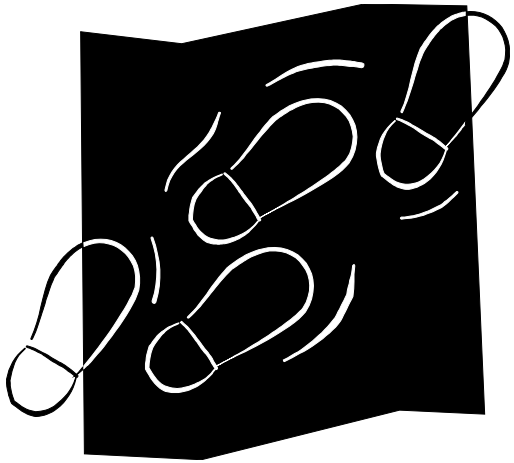
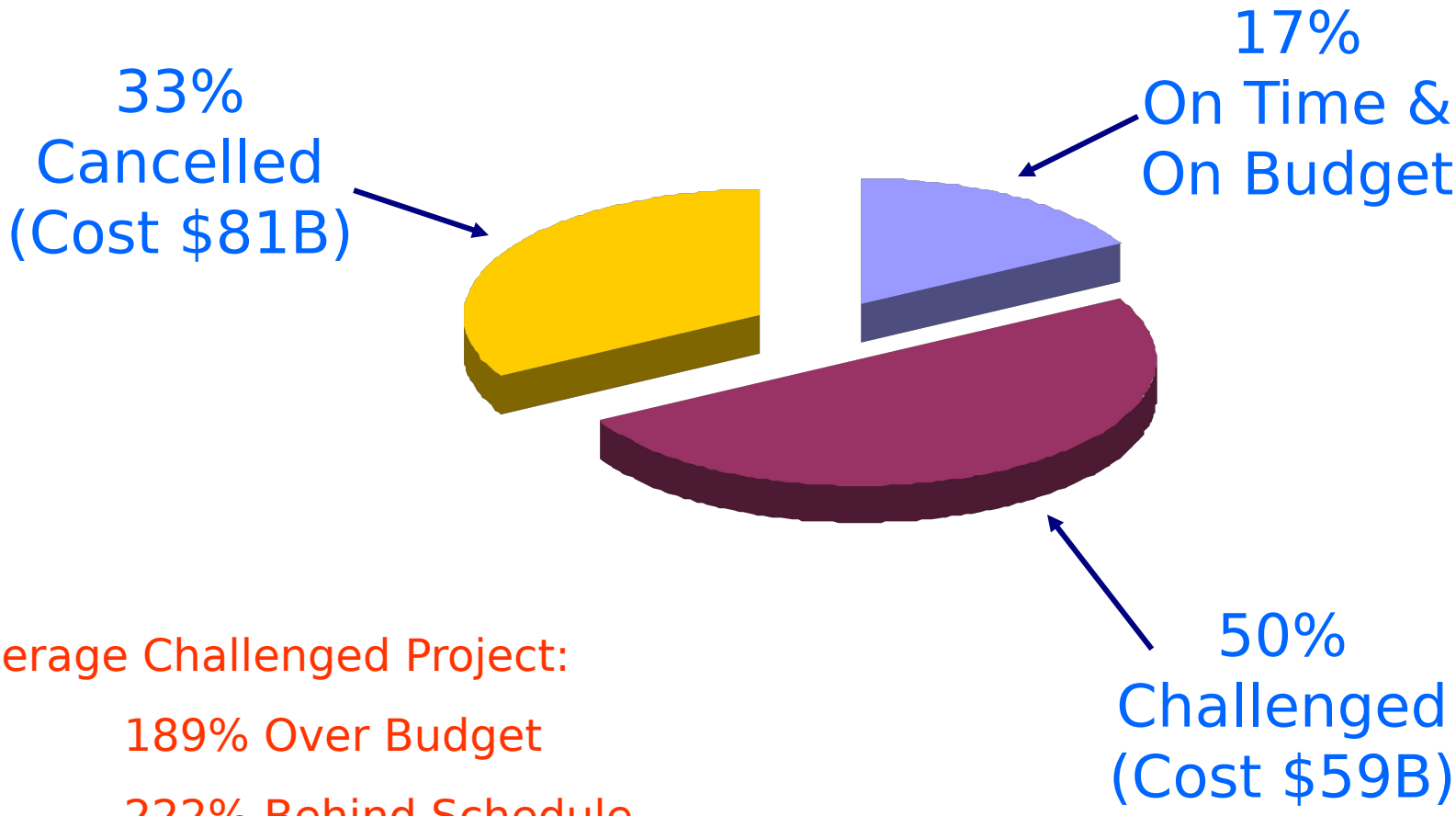
10 Steps to Better Requirements



Larry Fellows

Compliance Automation, Inc.

Standish Group Survey - 1995



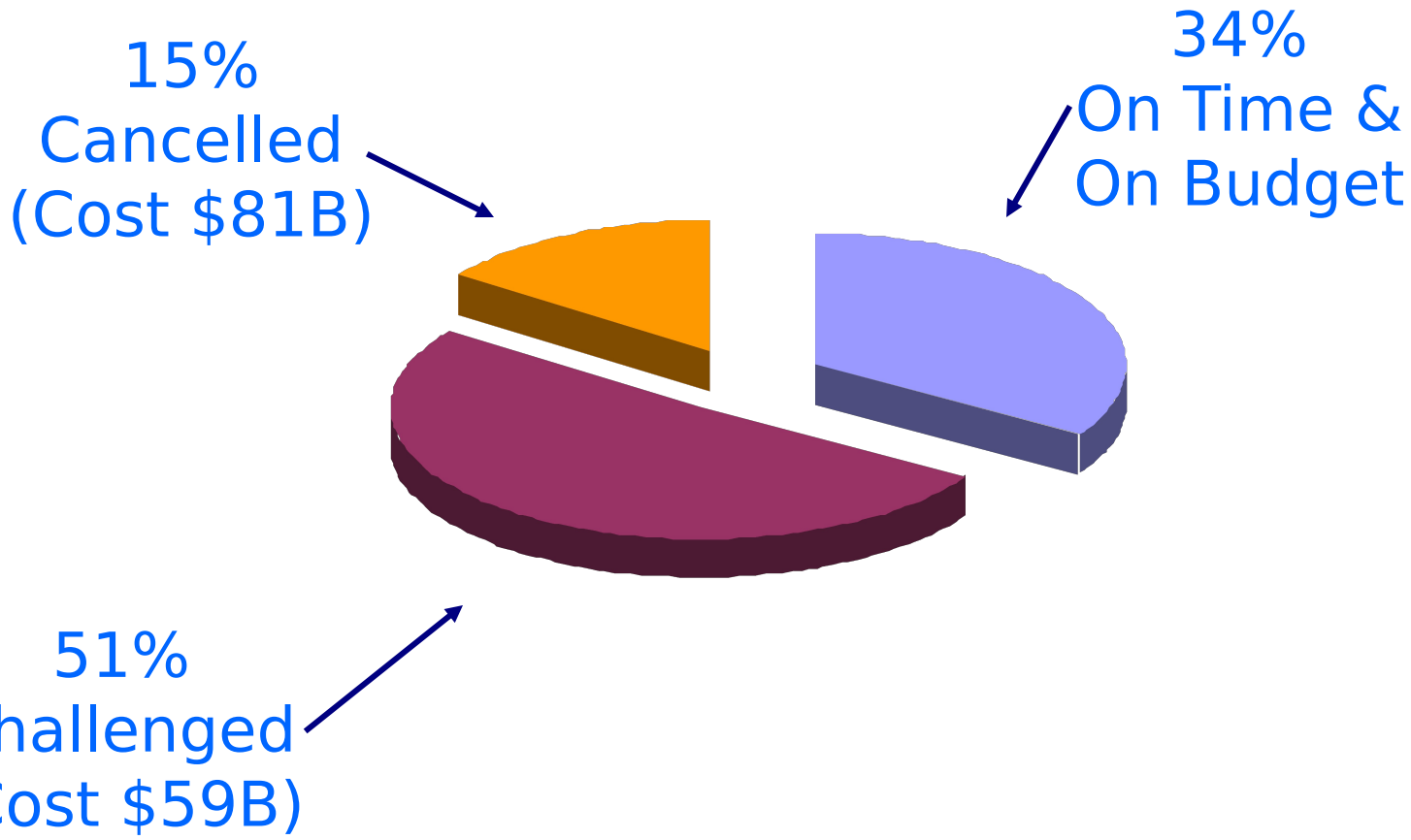
Average Challenged Project:

189% Over Budget

222% Behind Schedule

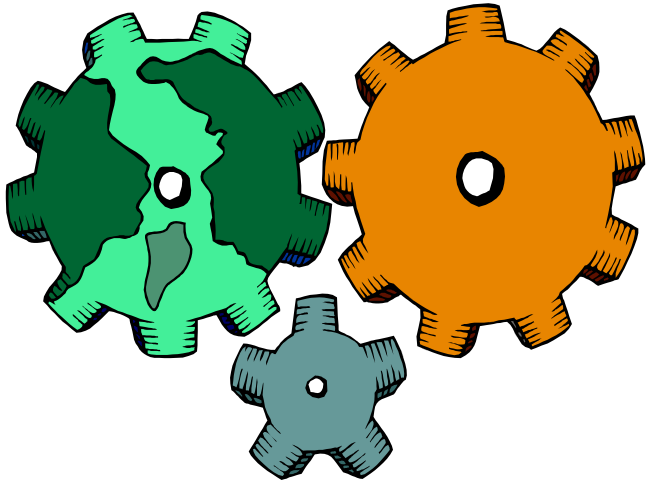
Only 61% of originally specified features delivered.

Standish Group Survey - 2002

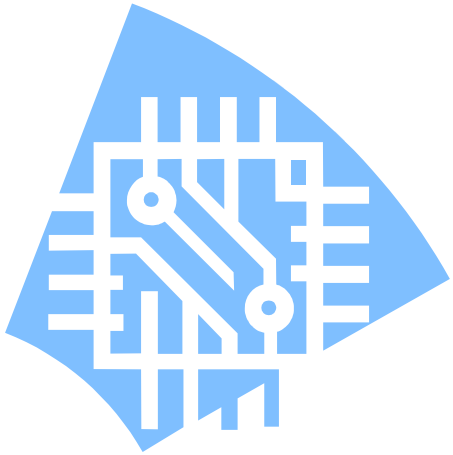


A Winning Product

On Time
On Budget
Required
Functions Right
Quality



Step 1 – Define the NEED



Step 2 – Identify the Stakeholders

Customer

Designers

Engineering

System Engineering

Software

Marketing

Logistics

Service

Operations

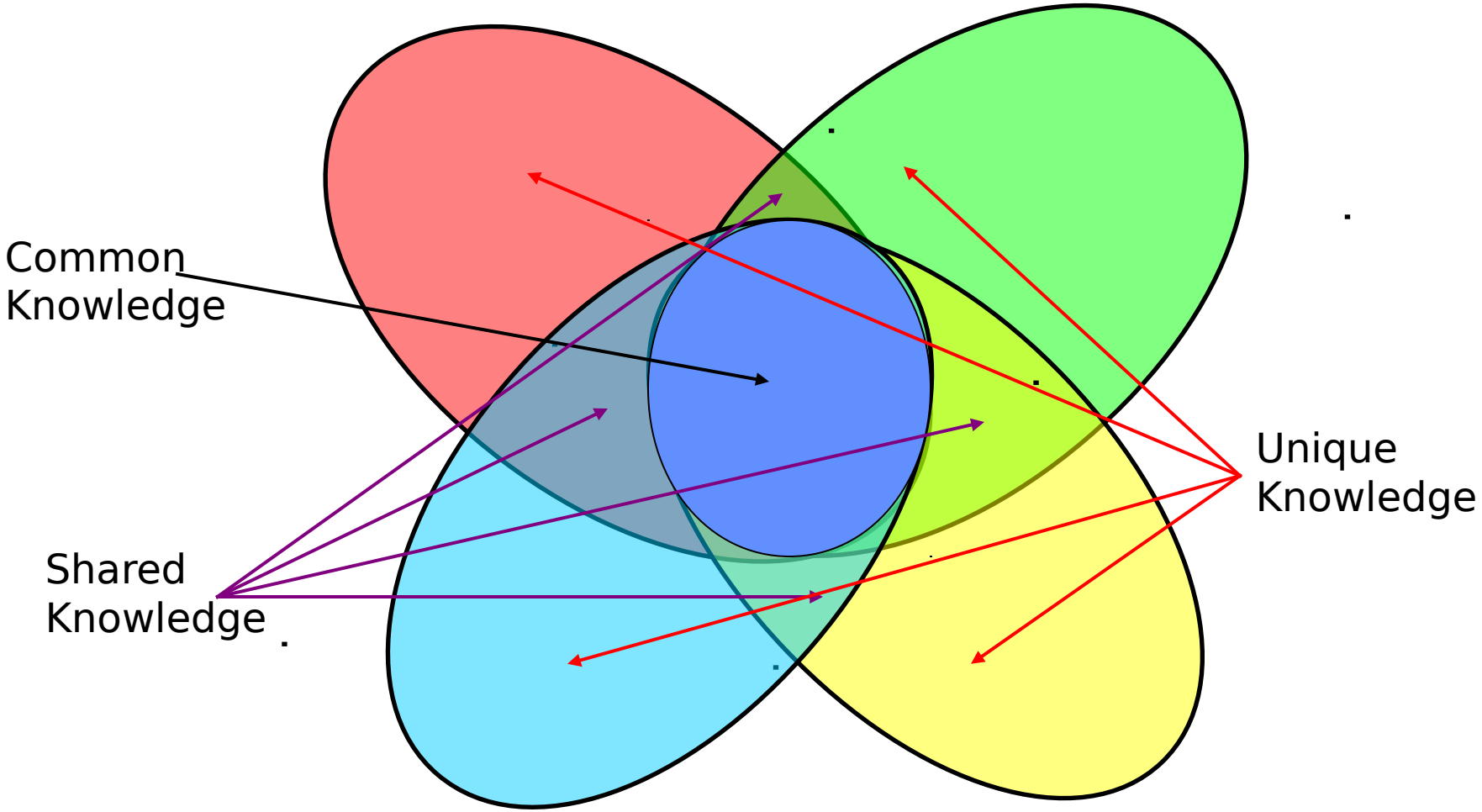
Manufacturing

Reliability

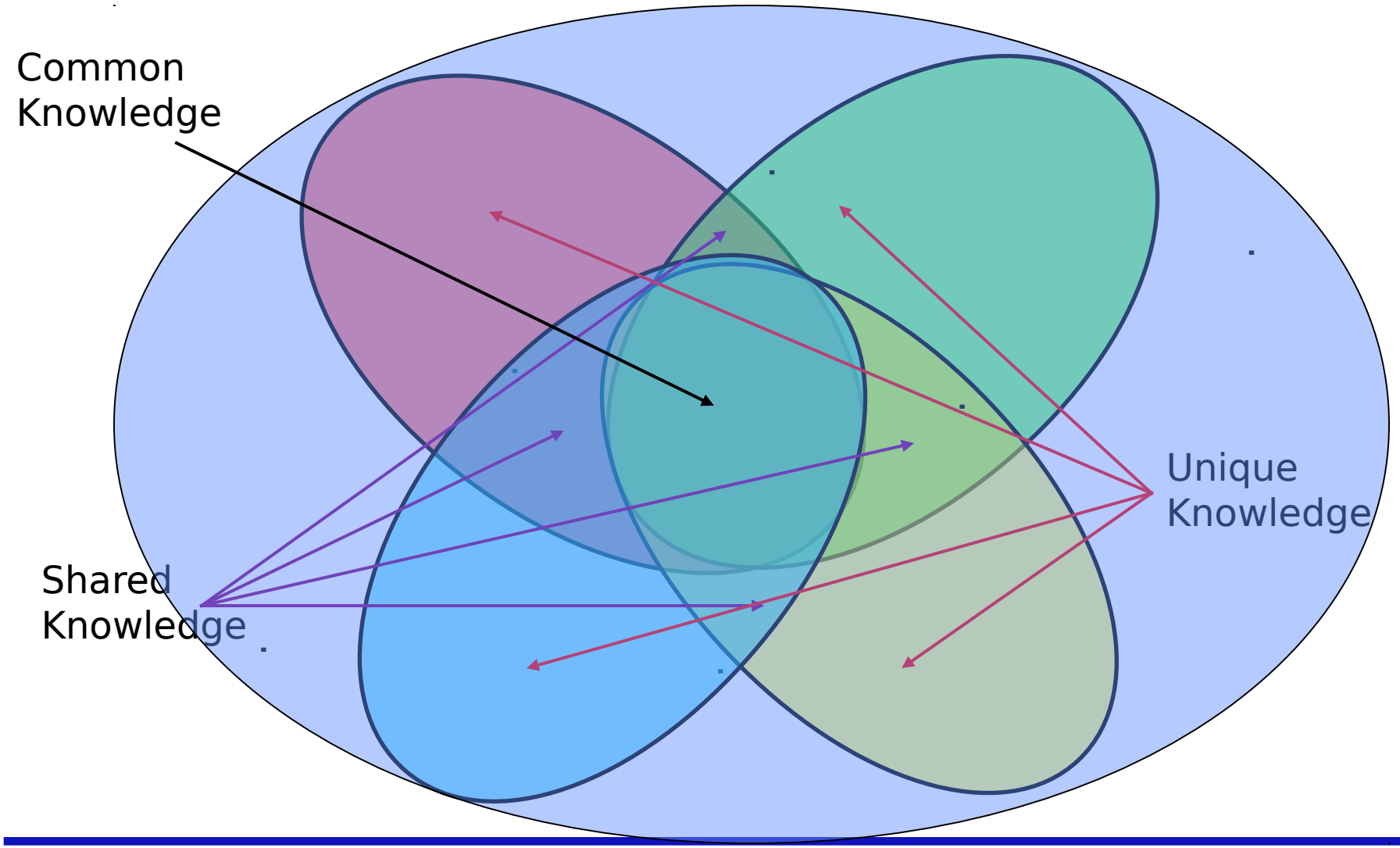
Testing

Developers

Stakeholder Knowledge



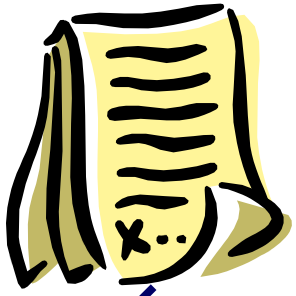
Create Common Vision



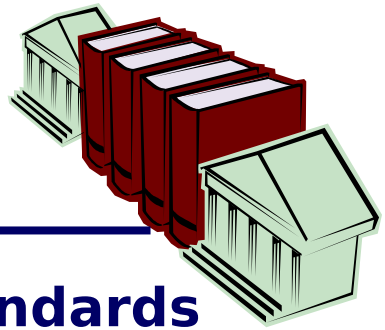
Step 3 – Recognize the Drivers

Regulations

Cost



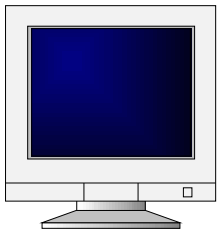
Higher Level Requirements

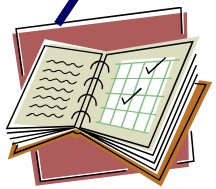


Standards

Specification

Existing systems & processes

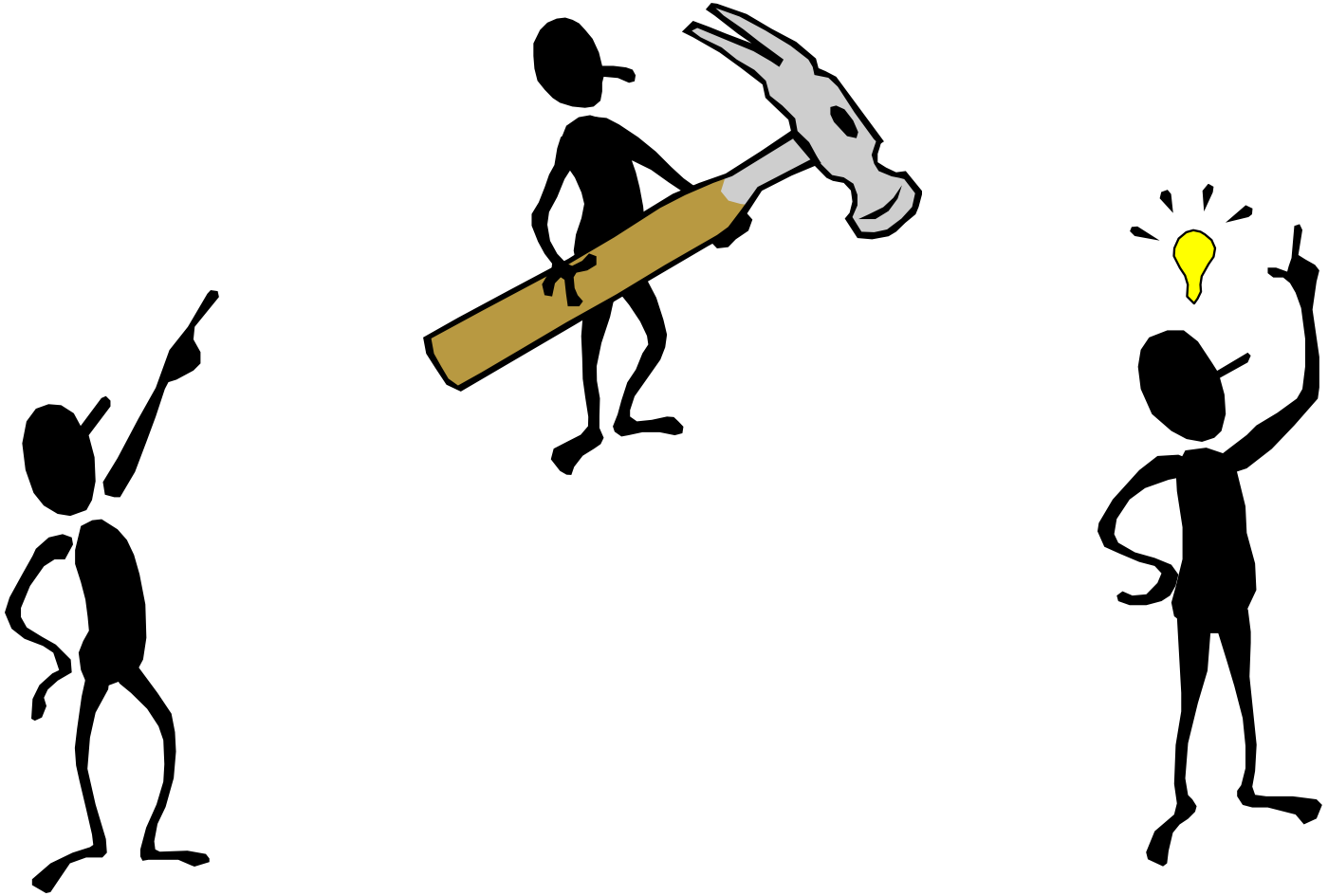




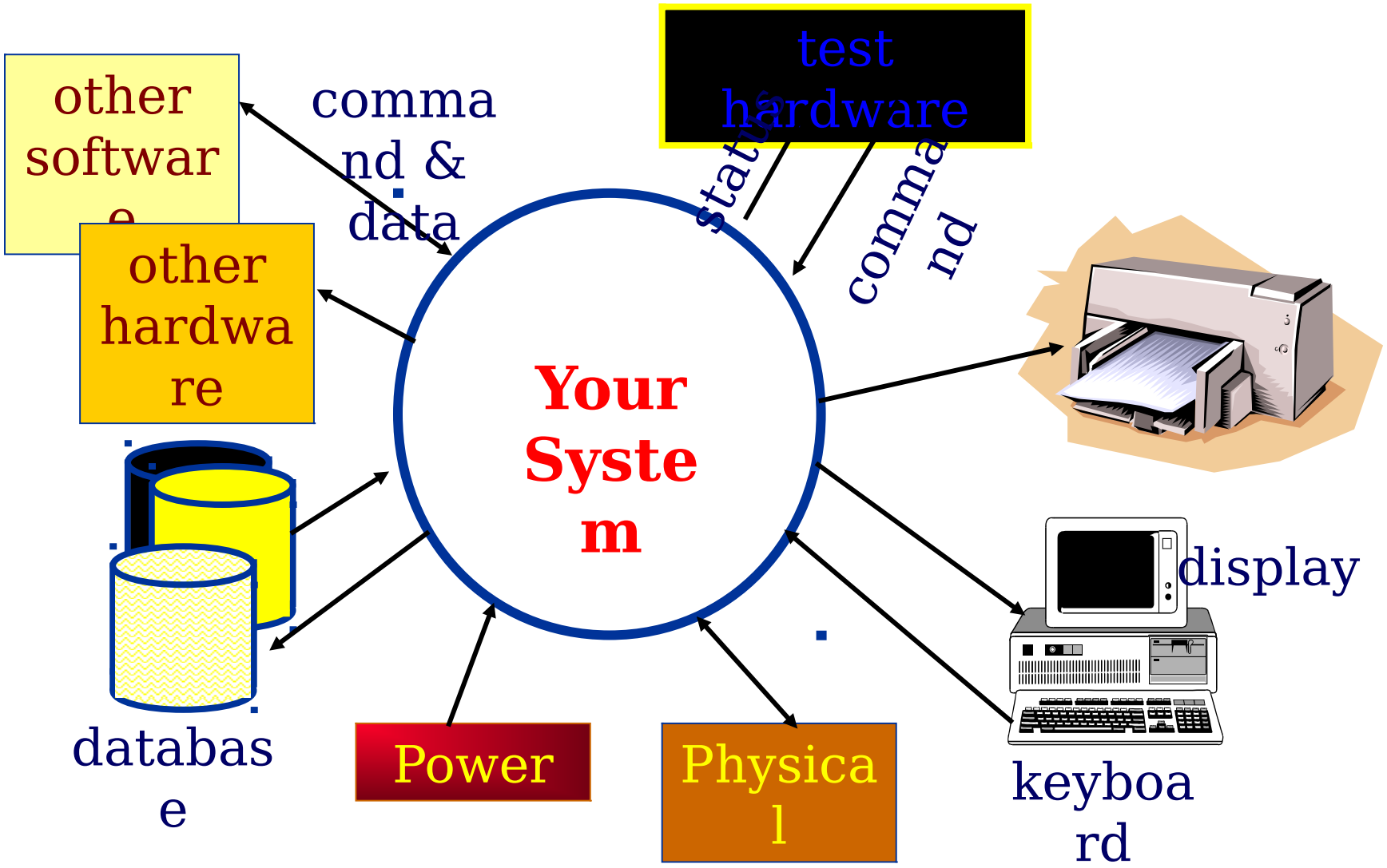
Schedule

User expectations

Step 4 – Gather Operational Concepts

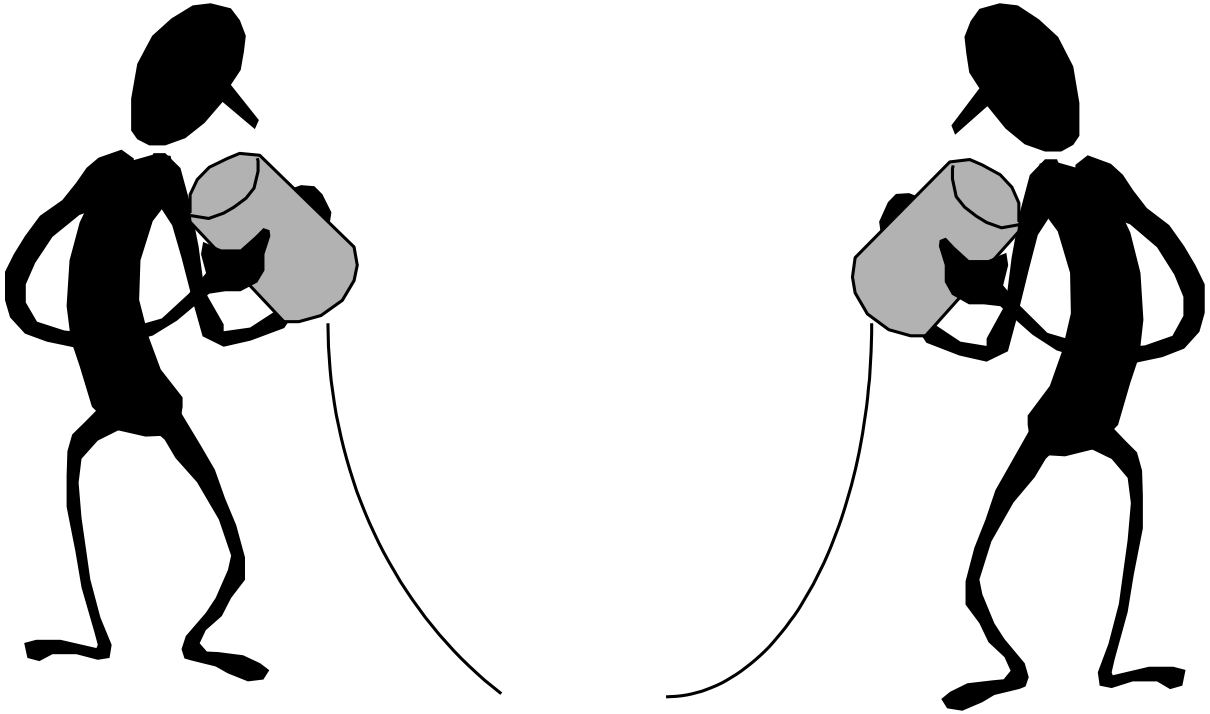


Step 5 – Define External Interfaces



Communication problems

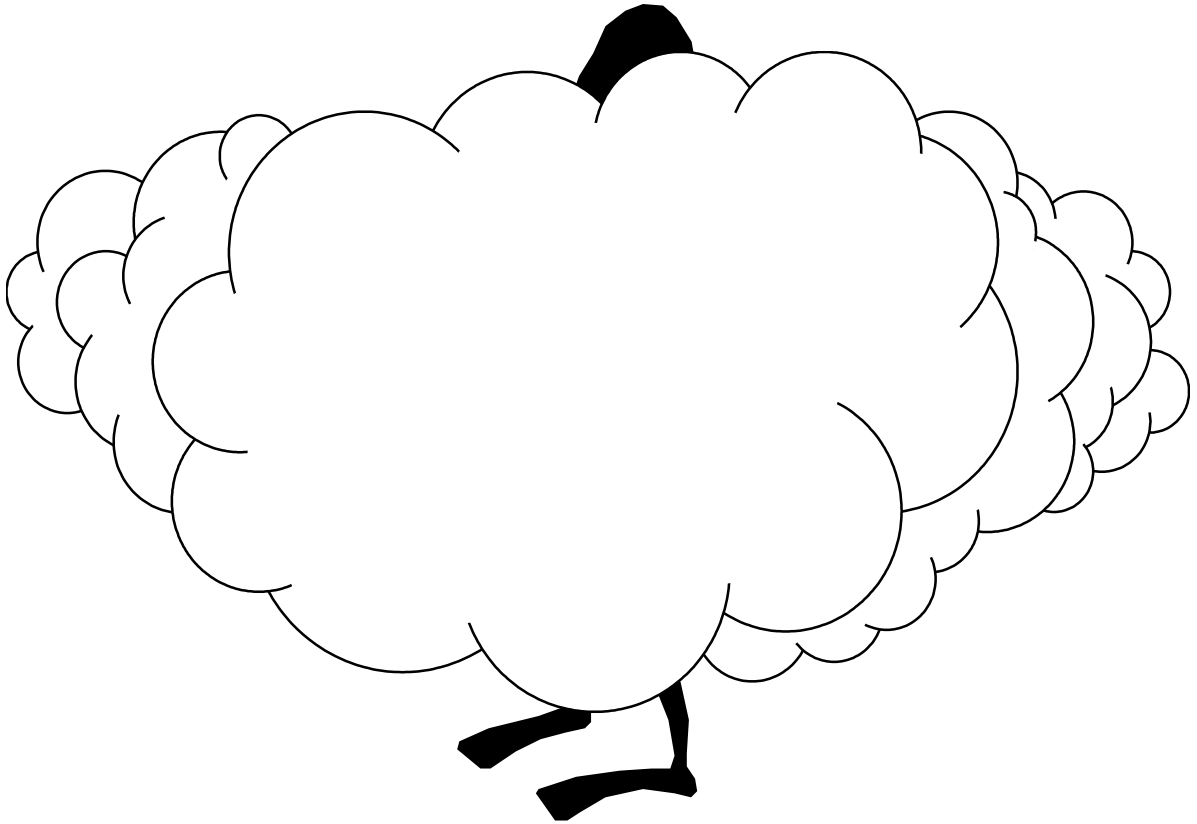
Step 6 – Create a Simple Format



Who

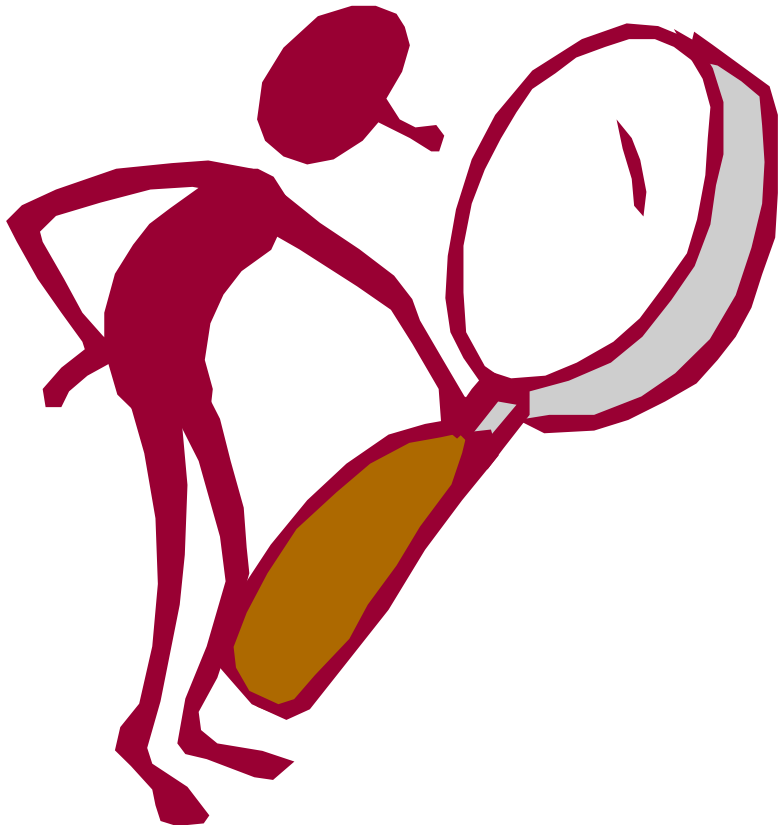
What

Step 7 – Avoid Ambiguous Terminology



Step 8 – Define Requirement Rationale

Step 9 – Capture Verification Method



Step 10 – Use a Standard Template

No Surprises

People who write bad requirements should not be surprised when they get bad products

But they always are.

Ivy Hooks